

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 213

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate John Ferguson Apple upon his selection as Teacher of the Year at Upperman High School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, John Ferguson Apple is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, John Apple has recently been selected Teacher of the Year by Upperman High School (UHS), an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence he has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Apple received both his Bachelor of Science degree in Education and his Master of Arts degree in Instructional Leadership from Tennessee Technological University (TTU); and

WHEREAS, he has served with acumen and alacrity as a Spanish teacher at Upperman High for his nine exemplary years of teaching, during which time he has also taught classes at TTU; and

WHEREAS, as a very involved and concerned teacher, Mr. Apple offers free academic assistance to any Spanish student in order to help them maintain passing grades in Spanish; he also dedicates his time to the Lottery for Education After-school Program for two hours each week; and

WHEREAS, John Apple also lends his time and talents to active professional development as a Teacher Mentor for new Spanish teachers at Cornerstone Middle School and UHS and is also a practicum student participant at TTU; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional, John Apple is affiliated with the Tennessee Foreign Language Teaching Association, the Real Educators' Alliance for Languages, the PCEA, the TEA, and the NEA, and the National Beta Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Apple is also an essential member of the local community; he is essential to the organization of the annual Relay for Life and, through the Beta Club, raises funds for the Ronald McDonald House and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Apple is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mr. Apple was chosen as UHS's 2004-2005 Teacher of the Year, stood as the UHS nominee for the Rotary Club's 2004 Excellence in Teaching Award, was recognized in *Who's Who Among American High School Teachers*, and received the 1998 Dale Sievers Fund for the Future award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Apple is a man of devout faith who plays piano for the Hispanic Church Rio Vivo each Sunday; he organized an ESL class for the Hispanic community at his church and volunteers with children's ministries, as well as serving as a teacher, deacon, pianist, choir director, assistant treasurer, and committee member; and

WHEREAS, John Apple truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, he truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend John Ferguson Apple on his selection as Teacher of the Year at Upperman High School and for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

